



Dear NNSA Colleagues,

Today, the President has asked that I join the team at the White House as Deputy Assistant to the President, National Director and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combatting Terrorism.

I am, of course, honored that the President has selected me for this important position, but saddened that I must leave NNSA before the entire job is done.

In just two years we have made a huge difference. We are stronger in all mission areas:

- stockpile stewardship continues to ensure the safety, security, and reliability of our weapons – and the entire enterprise – while building a solid foundation for the decades to come;
- our nonproliferation programs are accelerating cooperative programs with Russia, realizing new successes, and reaching into critical new arenas to make us all safer;
- Naval Reactors has never been more effective or more efficient, and their product has never been used harder or performed better;
- and I am particularly proud of the response of the entire NNSA family to the events immediately following September 11 and the creative and energetic support to homeland security ever since.

We have in place a long-range plan, and, more importantly, the long-range planning process that will ensure future successes, and Congress is providing us resources and support to execute it.

We are beginning to make real progress in streamlining our operations – sharpening roles and responsibilities, pushing decisions down as close to the work as possible, and eliminating non-value added oversight. I urge everyone to continue these initiatives for streamlining and efficiency.

And, of course, we are in the middle of a massive reengineering effort of the Federal element of the team to rationalize and cement into place this modern way of doing business. Please continue to support this and make it happen.

I will have more to say later, but I thank every member of the NNSA team – on the Federal side, and in the laboratories, plants, and test site – for their support, energy, expertise, and commitment to help achieve the goals the President and Congress have set for us. You truly are on the front lines of national security and I hope you are as proud of your contribution as am I. You truly do “make it happen.”

I am especially grateful to Secretary Spencer Abraham for his leadership and his support of the many NNSA initiatives we have underway. And I thank all the members of Congress who had the foresight to create NNSA and the confidence to give us our head and the resources we need.

We have accomplished much in the last two years together and much remains to be done to fulfill our mission. Please give your support and commitment to NNSA through the coming months.